UCLouvain

Igeo2130

2024

Fundamentals of geographic and environmental modelling

5.00 credits 30.0 h + 30.0 h Q2

Teacher(s)	Deleersnijder Eric ;Vanwambeke Sophie ;					
Language :	English					
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve					
Prerequisites	Elementary calculus and statistics					
Main themes	At the end of this course, the students will be able to: Identify and characterize a model and understand the mathematics of a process-based model; Translate a physical, environmental and/or spatial process into mathematical language; Grasp all steps of a modelling process, from the statement of a question to the validation of results; Start engaging with professionals of environmental modelling and management in various settings. Contribution to the acquisition and evaluation of the following learning outcomes of the programme in geography (general and climatology): AA 1.1, AA 1.2, AA 1.4, AA 1.6, and particularly AA.1.7 and AA 1.8 AA 3.3, AA 3.4 AA 4.1, AA 4.2 AA 5.5 AA 6.1, 6.2 Most importantly, these learning outcomes are central to this course: AA 4.3, AA 4.4, AA 4.5					
Learning outcomes						
Evaluation methods	Evaluation: 5% math homework 35 % homeworks on part 1 40% reports on part 2 20% joint oral exam on both parts of the course August session: Assignment on part 1 (40%), assignement on part 2 (40%), oral exam (20%). No marks will b sent forward between sessions.					
Teaching methods	Classroom lectures and practical sessions, involving active learning methods. All lectures are in English. The course material and practical notes are in English and French.					
Content	The course includes two parts. The first half focuses on differential models. The second half looks into spatial modelling and modelling practice. The course starts by a general introduction on modelling. The following topics are dealt with: How to model? The various steps of modelling; Typology of models; Differential models: linear ordinary differential problems (e.g. first order decay); Differential models: non-linear ordinary differential problems (e.g. population modelling, prey-predator populations, epidemiological model); Differential models: space-time dependency; Spatial models: making space explicit, self-organising systems (e.g. epidemic diffusion, erosion processes); Spatial models: interacting, spatially-explicit objects: agent-based models (e.g. land use change) How to model? Model validation.					
Inline resources	Slides, lecture notes and additional reading material on Moodle.					
Other infos	Prerequisites LGEO1342 - Geographical Information Systems (or similar); LGEO1341 - Statistical modelling (or similar); Mathematics (or similar)					

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Faculty or entity in	GEOG
charge	

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)							
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes			
Master [120] in Chemistry and Bioindustries	BIRC2M	5		Q			
Master [120] in Agriculture and Bio-industries	SAIV2M	5		0			
Master [120] in Geography : General	GEOG2M	5		Q			